Remarks

By the present amendment, claims 1 to 15 have been cancelled without prejudice. New claims 1 to 5 are submitted herewith. Accordingly, upon entry of the amendment, claims 1 to 5 are pending.

Support for claims 1 to 5 can be found throughout the specification. In particular, claims 1 to 5 are supported, for example, at page 42, line 1, to page 43, line 11, which discloses that multiple sclerosis patients which exhibit increased duration of tolerance have HLA-DR2 haplotype. Claims 1 to 5 are also supported, for example, at page 13, lines 10-18; page 14, lines 16-21; and at page 15, lines 29-31.

Thus, as claims 1 to 5 are supported by the specification, no new matter has been added. As such, entry of claims 1 to 5 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview would expedite prosecution of this application, he is encouraged to telephone the undersigned Applicants' attorney.

If the fee authorized is incorrect or if any other fees are due in connection with this submission, please charge any such fee or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 03-3975.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP

Date: 11-30-01

By: _____
Robert M. Bedgood
Reg. No. 43,488

50 Fremont Street
P.O. Box 7880
San Francisco, CA 94105
Tel. No.: (858) 509-4065
Fax No.: (415) 983-1200

1. A method of identifying a multiple sclerosis patient that will exhibit low or undetectable anti-MBP levels in response to treatment with a peptide of from about 8 to about 25 amino acids and having a sequence contained within amino acid residues 61-106 of SEQ ID NO:1, including substitutions, additions or deletions thereof, provided the peptide is capable of neutralizing or modulating the production of anti-myelin basic protein, comprising identifying a multiple sclerosis patient having an HLA-DR2 haplotype, wherein the presence of the HLA-DR2 haplotype in the patient identifies a patients that will exhibit low or undetectable anti-MBP levels in response to treatment with the peptide.

2. A method of screening for multiple sclerosis patients that exhibit low or undetectable anti-MBP levels in response to treatment with a peptide of from about 8 to about 25 amino acids and having a sequence contained within amino acid residues 61-106 of SEQ ID NO:1, including substitutions, additions or deletions thereof, provided the peptide is capable of neutralizing or modulating the production of anti-myelin basic protein, comprising screening multiple sclerosis patients for the presence of an HLA-DR2 haplotype, wherein the presence of the HLA-DR2 haplotype in the patient indicates patients that will exhibit low or undetectable anti-MBP levels in response to treatment with the peptide.

3. A method of predicting therapeutic efficacy of treatment of a multiple sclerosis patient with a peptide of from about 8 to about 25 amino acids and having a sequence contained within amino acid residues 61-106 of SEQ ID NO:1, including substitutions, additions or deletions thereof, provided the peptide is capable of neutralizing or modulating the production of anti-myelin basic protein, comprising screening a multiple sclerosis patient for the presence of an HLA-DR2 haplotype, wherein the presence of the HLA-DR2 haplotype in the patient is predictive of therapeutic efficacy of treatment with the peptide.

4. The method of any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the HLA-DR2 haplotype comprises DRB1*1501 or DRB1*15021.

5. The method of any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the patient has chronic progressive MS.